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June 23, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION TASK FORCE STATUS REPORT

This memo is in response to Supervisor Antonovich's May 27, 2003 amended motion to ask the existing County working group on nutrition and fitness to expand its scope of work to address the relationship between obesity and chronic disease among adults.

On Wednesday, May 28, 2003, the Los Angeles County Children and Youth Physical Fitness Implementation Planning Group held its first meeting to begin implementation of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Task Force on Children and Youth Physical Fitness key recommendations to improve the physical fitness of children. At that meeting, the Planning Group reviewed Supervisor Antonovich's motion and revised its charge to expand its scope of work to: 1) address the relationship between obesity and chronic disease among adults; 2) develop a broad-based effort to accurately inform people about overweight and obesity causing cancer and other acute care illnesses, including nutritional information; and 3) develop notices to be inserted into employee paychecks for three months about the statistics or information regarding overweight and obesity causing cancer and other acute care illness.

The Planning Group has now changed its name to the Los Angeles County Physical Activity and Nutrition Task Force. Additionally, DHS staff contacted the Auditor Controller to reserve dates for messages regarding overweight and obesity to be included in employee paychecks. The first available dates, October 15th, November 15th and December 15th have been reserved for Physical Activity and Nutrition Task Force messages.

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The next Physical Activity and Nutrition Task Force meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2003. During this meeting the task force will develop paycheck messages; begin developing a broad-based effort to accurately inform people about overweight and obesity causing cancer and other acute care illnesses, including nutritional information; and continue implementation of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Task Force on Children and Youth Physical Fitness key recommendations to improve the physical fitness of children and adults.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

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c: Chief Administrative Officer
 County Counsel
 Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors